

SUMMARY OF INVENTION

A hollow, elongate structure of right circular section with respect to its longitudinal axis, said structure being defined by a relatively thin side wall concentric with the longitudinal axis and a relatively thin end wall at the smaller end detachably connected to the side wall at the smaller end, said end wall comprising a bottom for the structure and being sufficiently firmly connected thereto so that the structure may be employed as a receptacle for beverages, snack foods and the like, but which may be fractured at the connection to remove it fully or partially from said end, and said smaller end being so dimensioned that when the end wall is removed, said small end constituting a mouthpiece which corresponds substantially in diameter to the mouthpiece of a conventional megaphone so that the structure can be used as a megaphone. The side wall and bottom wall are formed integrally and the junction connecting the same is of reduced thickness such as to be frangible. Preferably, the bottom wall is spaced axially from the smaller diameter end toward the larger diameter end by an amount at least equal to the thickness of the bottom so that the structure will set stably on its lower end and, desirably, there is a reinforcing bead peripherally of the larger diameter end.

The invention will now be described in greater detail with reference to the accompanying drawings, wherein:

FIG. 1 is an elevation of the structure shown resting on its lower, smaller-diameter end on a support for use as a container;

FIG. 2 is an elevation of the structure showing its use as a megaphone;

FIG. 3 is a vertical diametral section of the structure shown in FIG. 1;

FIG. 4 is a plan view looking down into the open end of the structure;

FIG. 5 is a bottom view looking up at the bottom of the structure including an integral pull ring or tab which aids in removing the end surface from the side surface;

FIG. 6 is a fragmentary section to much larger scale showing the junction of the bottom with the side walls with a detail of a pull ring which aids in removing the end surface from the side surface; and

FIG. 7 is a fragmentary section at the lower end of the structure showing a detail of the joining of the end wall to the side surface;

FIG. 8 is an elevation of the structure standing on its wider open end, showing the smaller end still attached to the side surface;

FIG. 9 is an elevation of the structure standing on its wider open end, showing the smaller end being removed from the side surface by a pull ring;

Referring to the drawings, the multiple purpose structure shown herein is used, on the one hand, as shown in FIG. 1, as a container for beverages and snack foods and, when used for such a purpose, can be placed upright on its lower, smaller-diameter end on a supporting surface 12. Following use as a container, as will appear hereinafter, the structure can be used as a megaphone, the smaller end being so dimensioned that it corresponds substantially in diameter to the mouthpiece of a conventional megaphone, as illustrated in FIG. 2.

The structure 10, FIGS. 1 and 3, is of frustoconical configuration, having a smooth side wall 14 which is concentric with its longitudinal axis X--X and a smooth end wall 16 at its lower, smaller-diameter end which is connected to the side wall by a frangible connection 18, FIG. 6, of lesser thickness than the thickness of the side and end walls.

The end and side walls are formed integral, for example, of resin-impregnated paperboard or thermoplastic, such as polyolefin, and the junction 18 is of lesser thickness and, hence, frangible so that the end wall can be removed is, nevertheless, sufficiently strong to enable filling the structure with a beverage, ice cream, popcorn or peanuts, without rupture and, yet, sufficiently fragile so that when the container is emptied of its contents, the bottom 16 can be removed by a integral pull ring or tab 21, and the structure then used as a megaphone by placing the smaller end to the mouth of the person using it.

As shown in FIG. 6, the bottom wall 16 is spaced inwardly from the lower end by an amount d at least equal to the thickness of the bottom part of the bottom wall so that when the structure is placed on the supporting surface, only the lower edge 19 of the side wall has contact with the supporting surface 12, thus ensuring stability, and the portion of the side wall below the bottom wall is made approximately twice as thick as the side wall above the bottom and rolled at its lower edge 19 so as to provide a smooth, firm mouthpiece which will not chap or burn the lips. Desirably, a portion of the side wall at the lower end as indicated at a may be formed with a lesser taper, that is, more nearly cylindrical to better hold it to the mouth when using it as a megaphone. For reinforcement purposes, the larger diameter upper end has peripherally thereof a bead 20.

The side wall thickness is approximately 0.030 inches, the bottom wall thickness is approximately 0.040 inches, and the junction connecting the bottom wall 16 to the side wall tapers from a thickness of approximately 0.040 inches which is the thickness of the bottom wall to approximately 0.010 inches where it joins the side wall. The overall dimensions, but without limitation, are an axial length of approximately 5 1/2 inches, a diameter at the top of approximately 3 1/2 inches, and a diameter at the bottom of approximately 2 1/2 inches.

The structure, as previously indicated, can be made of resin-impregnated paperboard or of any suitable thermoplastic resin which may be blow-molded or injection-molded. Polyolefin has been already mentioned; however, linear polyethylene, polypropylene and any equivalent of the foregoing may be used.

The double use of the device as described and suitably decorated, for example, with the colors or names of the participating teams, makes it especially popular to concessionaires at sporting events in that it encourages the sale of beverages, ice cream, snack food and the like and; to some extent, discourages immediate discard when it has been emptied because of its secondary use as a megaphone and as a souvenir which can be taken home, thereby greatly reducing the problems of trash removal.

It should be understood that the present disclosure is for the purpose of illustration only and includes all modifications or improvements which fall within the scope of the appended claims.